

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-25 (Canceled)

Claim 26 (Currently Amended) A device having at least first and second ~~two~~ communications sections suitable for connection to similar devices along different bi-directional communications links, ~~the device having a~~ said first communications section being arranged to respond to reception of a clock transition signal along a first communications link by transmitting a clock transition signal having the same polarity back along said first communications ~~link and a~~ and said second communications section arranged to respond to reception of a clock transition signal along a second communications link by transmitting a clock transition signal having the opposite polarity back along said second communications link.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in Claim ~~in which~~ wherein said first communications section holds first clock logic level and an output, when the first communications section is not connected to another device ~~holds a first clock state as an output~~ and wherein said second communications section holds a second clock logic level having an opposite polarity to the first clock state logic level

an input, when the second communications section is not connected to another device, ~~it holds a second clock state having an opposite polarity to the first as an input.~~

Claim 28 (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in Claim 2 wherein said second communications section holds a first clock logic level as an output, ~~in which~~ when the second communications section is not connected to another device, ~~holds a first clock state as an output~~ and wherein said first communications section holds a second clock logic level having an opposite polarity to the first clock state logic level as an output, when the first communications section is not connected to another device, ~~it holds a second clock state having an opposite polarity to the first as an output.~~

Claim 29 (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 26 ~~which~~, wherein the linked communication sections form a loop when the first communications section is linked to the second communications section of another device or vice-versa through a bi-directional communications link, ~~the linked communication sections form an oscillating loop~~ and wherein the device uses ~~the~~ an oscillating clock transition signal passing around the loop as a clock signal for communication along the communications link.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in Claim 29 in which, when the first and second communication sections are first linked, the difference between their held input and

output clock logic levels ~~states~~ causes the ~~loop to begin~~
oscillating clock transition signals to begin passing ~~arc~~
the loop.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended) An electronic communication network comprising at least ~~two~~ first and second devices connected by at least one bi-directional communications link wherein ~~in which an oscillating loop~~ a loop is formed by ~~first~~ said first device receiving a clock transition signal along the communications link and sending a clock transition signal having the same polarity back along the communications link and ~~a second~~ said second device receiving a clock transition signal along the communications link and sending a clock transition signal having the opposite polarity back along the communications link, and wherein the first and second devices use the oscillating clock transitions transition signals traveling around the loop to provide a clock signal to control data transfer along the communications link.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended) A network as claimed in Claim 31 in which the clock ~~transitions~~ transition signals traveling around the loop are used as said clock signal.

Claims 33-36 (Canceled)